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UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJ: USCINCPAC'S PERSPECTIVE ON ASIA-PACIFIC SECURITY AND CHINA

SUMMARY: Great potential for progress in many areas of mutual interest, but also potential for difficulty without cooperation and mutual understanding of major regional powers

KEY POINTS

- * Entering period of unparalleled prosperity, security but with volatile flash points
- * U.S. will remain actively involved in political, economic, and security affairs
- * U.S. has vital interests throughout the region
- * Dangers in misperceptions; dialogue vital to mutual respect and trust
- * Issues; North Korea, navigation/trade, peaceful resolution of territorial disputes

DISCUSSION

- * As China and Asia entering period of unparalleled prosperity and security which must be managed carefully to avoid flash points, such as South China Sea, Taiwan
- * U.S. will remain actively involved, and has the basis for positive relationship with China
 - ** Desire for regional stability, prosperity
 - ** Desire to limit growth of nuclear club, long term reduction in nuclear stockpiles
 - ** Both are major world players, UN Perm Five members, very large economies
- * U.S. vital interests in Asia demand continuing political, military, and economic presence
 - ** We will stay involved; figure of 100,000;
 - ** Alliances with Japan, Australia reflect our long-term interests world-wide; not China focused
- * Dialogue with PRC critical to prevent misperceptions (and to build "old friend" basis for crisis management if needed) to building relationship based on respect and trust
 - ** Chinese society is built on personal relationships more than positional authority
 - ** Need to move dialogue to new depths (get beyond ice-breaker platitudes)
 - ** Dialogue vital to building lasting relationship based on respect and trust
- * Issues: North Korea, navigation/trade, and peaceful resolution of territorial disputes:
 - ** Korea: Management of North Korean collapse critical; China will be a player
 - ** Freedom of navigation/trade: U.S. concern Chinese claims; intentions
 - ** Territorial disputes: China has disputes with ASEAN, Japan, Korea; Taiwan

BOTTOM LINE: China figures prominently in every key issue/area in Asia; China will almost certainly become significantly more powerful over time. Protection of U.S. interests in Asia demand a healthy, non-hostile long-term relationship with the PRC.